



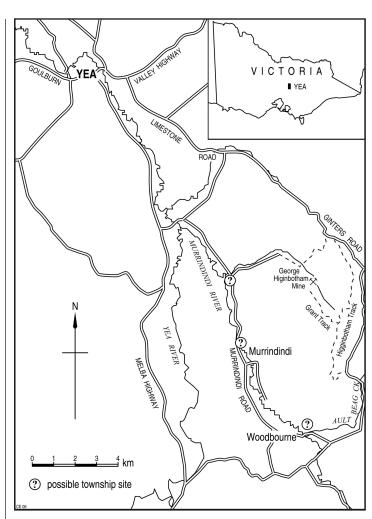
NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PLACENAMES SURVEY

Higinbotham, Victoria: ghost town and mythical miner

hen researching a book about placenames in the upper Goulburn River area of north-east central Victoria (published as *Place-Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria*, Alexandra: Friends of the Library, 2003), one of the sources I consulted was James Flett's *The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria* (Melbourne, 1970). On page 116 I came across the following paragraph:

Early in 1866 rich reefs were discovered at what was originally called New Chum, up the Murrundindi River about ten miles from Yea, and there was a rush prospected by McLeish and party in 1868. In 1869 the mining village, where there was a club and a theatre, changed its name to Higginbotham, after a reefer named George Higginbotham.

The McLeish family is mentioned several times in *The*



Possible locations of the township (map prepared by Clem Earp)

Story of Yea (1973, 2001) by Harvey Blanks, and there was a single reference to the Higginbotham Prospecting and Gold Mining Company, of which John Wishart Cairns was a director, but there was no mention of the village.

☐ Continued Page 4



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Dambalkoordany, WA

There's a favourite fishing spot here known variously as *Tumblegoody*, *Tumble Good Iron*, *Tumble Grid Iron*, *Tumble Good Ein*. They are all attempts to spell in English the Nyikina description of a place where you can find a certain type of river stone called *dambal*. The name consists of *dambal* plus a suffix *-koordany* which sort of means 'having'. So the proper name is Dambalkoordany which sounds rather like the Tumble Good Iron version.

The suffix -koordany is often used for placenames. For example, ngamakarri is the little corella, so ngamakarrikoordany is where the little corellas congregate. Libirrar is a type of river gum, so libirrar-koordany is used to describe a place (any place) where there's a grove of those trees.

But the suffix is not restricted to placenames, so it doesn't mean 'place of' as we are fond of saying. It can also apply to other things, e.g. *jalmarra* is the word for feather, *jalmarrakoordany* is one word for turkey. *Ngoonoo* means belly, *ngoonookoordany* is used for 'pregnant'.

☐ Colleen Hattersley
Derby, WA

I quote

In Chapter 1, Section ii of *East of Eden* John Steinbeck makes some interesting observations about placenaming practices when he discusses the placenames in the Salinas Valley, California:

"When the Spaniards came they had to give everything they saw a new name. This is the first duty of any explorer – a duty and a privilege. You must name a thing before you can note it on your hand-drawn map. Of course they were religious people, and the men who could read and write, who kept the records and drew the maps, were the tough untiring priests who travelled with the soldiers. Thus the first names of places were saints' names or religious holidays celebrated at stopping places. There were many saints and they were not inexhaustible, so that we find repetitions in their first namings. We have San Miguel, St Michael, San Ardo, San Bernado, San Benito, San Lorenzo, San Carlos, San Francisquito. And then the holidays – Natividad, the Nativity; Nacimiento, the Birth; Soledad, the Solitude. But places were also named from the way the expedition felt at the time: Buena Esperenza, good hope; Buena Vista because the view was beautiful; and Chualar because it was pretty. The descriptive names followed: Paso de los Robles because of the oak trees; Los Laureles for the laurels; Tularcitos because of the reeds in the swamp; and Salinas for the alkali which was white as salt.

Then places were named for animals and birds seen – Gabilanes for the hawks which flew in those mountains; Topo for the mole; Los Gatos for the wild cats. The suggestions sometimes came from the nature of the place itself: Tassajara, a cup and saucer; Laguna Seca, a dry lake; Corral de Tierra, a fence of earth; Paraiso because it was like Heaven.

Then the Americans came – more greedy because there were more of them. [...]

[They] had a greater tendency to name places for people than had the Spanish. After the valleys were settled the names of places refer more to things which happened there, and these to me are the most fascinating of all names because each name suggests a story that has been forgotten. I think of Bolsa Nueva, a new purse; Morocojo, a lame Moor (who was he and how did he get there?); Wild Horse Canyon and Mustang Grade and Shirt Tail Canyon. The names of places carry a charge of people who named them, reverent or irreverent, descriptive, either poetic or disparaging. You can name anything San Lorenzo, but Shirt Tail Canyon or Lame Moor is something quite different."

☐ Brought to our attention by **Jan Tent** (Please let us know if **you** come across any toponymically interesting passages)

On the Web

Names from Scotland



s Scots emigrated around the world they often reminded themselves of home by giving Scottish placenames to the locations in which they settled. This section of a vast Scottish-interest website was originally created by finding Scottish placenames abroad, but recently Ian Kendall of Victoria has provided another perspective by taking cities and towns around the world and finding the origins of the names used in their districts and suburbs. He has supplied the Scottish-related names for a number of locations around the world, including Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Canberra, Hobart and Townsville, as well as Auckland, Dunedin and many cities in the USA, Canada, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Jamaica and Barbados.

http://rampantscotland.com/placenames

Moving on: Susan Poetsch



oon after the last issue of the ANPS newsletter I started a new job. I was sad to leave APIT and ANPS and will be keeping in touch with Flavia and David and all of the wonderful and interesting contacts and colleagues I have met and worked with over the past six years.

I am now working in the Aboriginal Curriculum Unit of the Board of Studies NSW. Part of my new job involves working with Aboriginal communities in various towns in NSW. Some of these communities were involved in the dual naming workshops conducted by the Geographical Names Board NSW, the NSW Aboriginal Languages Research and Resource Centre and ANPS/APIT during 2003-2005.

The Board of Studies NSW is collaborating with Aboriginal community members, schools and linguists, to develop teaching and learning programs, to implement the Aboriginal Languages syllabus. Students learn the grammar and vocabulary of their own language(s) as well as about the processes of language revitalisation.

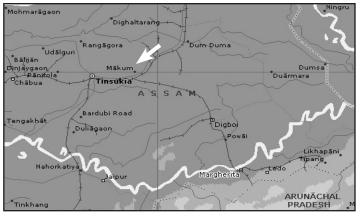
Although placenames alone do not constitute an Aboriginal

languages program, they regularly come up in discussions at programming and planning workshops. Placenames are clearly seen as part of language and therefore as part of learning and teaching Aboriginal languages. They are something that communities want their children to learn about, as part of local language, culture and history.

Many communities are developing their expertise in researching and re-learning their language(s). They are in the process of analysing the way that names and words from their local language(s) have been borrowed into English. The researchers and language workers involved have knowledge of the sound systems of their language(s) and, among other things, they are teaching and learning about how and why current pronunciation of Aboriginal placenames differs from earlier forms.

People involved in the learning and teaching of Aboriginal languages these days are also aware of how names and words from one language have, at various stages in history, been transferred and placed into other language areas (sometimes distant, sometimes neighbouring ones). These are the kinds of lessons that are covered in the section of the syllabus called "Making Linguistic Connections" in which students learn about similarities and differences between Aboriginal Languages.

Along with words for Australian flora and fauna, placenames are seen as one of the many ways in which Aboriginal languages have survived in Australia and in Australian English.



Makum is in the top left quadrant (map from MSN Encarta)

Shifting placenames and their shifting meanings

I thought your readers might be interested in a little piece of history of placenaming from India.

During my research on the Singpho language of Upper Assam in north-east India, I asked about the meanings of local placenames. One of these is the place named *Makum*. According to Kiyang Jawsam Nong, a Singpho speaker of Kumchai village, the placename is a Singpho word *makum* or *makrum*, meaning a boundary, from the Singpho word *kum*, meaning 'partition, fence off'. This was the place where their territory met that of the Motoks, another tribe of Upper

Assam, and so it was called 'partition place'.

Nowadays, the town of Makum is just east of the district town of Tinsukia in Upper Assam, clustered around a railway station called Makum Junction. There are two lines leading from Makum, one running north to the Brahmaputra river, and one running south-east to Margherita and Ledo.

Now it turns out that the name Makum Junction was given to this place because one of those lines led to the place once called Makum. This original Makum, shown on the oldest maps, is what is now called Margherita, about 40 km to the south-east on the Dihing River. When the original Makum was renamed Margherita (possibly the name of the wife of an early British official), Makum Junction was the only place left with this name, and little by little the 'Junction' dropped.

But there's more to this story. The Tai speaking Phakes, who also live in the area, say that the name is in fact Tai language, made up of two words *ma* 'to come' and *kum* 'to gather', the whole thing meaning 'a gathering place'. The site of the present Margherita (the original Makum) was the market and hence gathering place for all the local groups from long back.

It just goes to show how complex toponymy can be: the place name and its meaning are both shiftable.

☐ Stephen Morey

Research Institute for Linguistic Typology, LaTrobe University

I therefore consulted Les Blake's *Place Names of Victoria*. (Adelaide, 1977; microfiche edn, Hampton, Vic, 1987), where I found the following entry:

Higginbotham: Former goldfield settlement by Murrindindi Ri., 16 km fr. Yea, 1869; n[amed] after digger George Higginbotham; fr. 1866 when gold first found there, called New Chum.

Now I was aware that *Place Names of Victoria* could very often be unreliable, but on this occasion Blake had apparently taken all his information from Flett, and Flett

had given three references for what he had written: *Mining Registrars' Reports* (quarterly) for March 1866 (p. 47), September 1868 and March 1869.

I also consulted my 1:25000 survey maps of the Murrindindi River. On the Murrindindi (8023-3-4) map I soon found the Higginbotham Mine (grid ref. 55H CU710699) UNDER A SPELL.

DR. PUNCIL—IS THAT THE WAY YOU SPELL "CONSCIENCE," SIR 1 WHY MASTER IRELAND COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WORSE.

George Higinbotham as shown in a contemporary cartoon: Melbourne Punch, 23rd March 1865 (image courtesy of State Library of Victoria and Clem Earp)

marked beside an unnamed watercourse that emptied into the Murrindindi River. The mine lay between two ridges that carried Grants Track and Beatsons Track, and there was also Higginbotham Track nearby. The name Grants Track should perhaps have made me cautious, but otherwise I had no ground for suspicion.

I bestowed upon the unnamed watercourse the provisional name of Higginbotham Creek, then wrote an entry for the settlement, based largely on Flett and Blake, but with a suggestion of my own about the location:

Higginbotham. Former mining village. After a gold discovery in 1866, a settlement called New Chum arose about 16 km up the Murrindindi River from Yea. (There was another New Chum near Healesville.) In 1869 it was renamed after gold miner George Higginbotham (Flett, 1970; L. Blake). Most writers imply that the settlement

was on the Murrindindi River, but it is more likely to have been on Higginbotham Creek near the Higginbotham Mine. Old English *écen*, oaken, and *botma* wide valley.

I thought no more about this ghost town until 2004, when I heard from Clem Earp, who had been delving into the history of gold mining in the Yea area. He had examined various Mining Registrars' reports and other sources, and sent me copies of them, as he was very dubious about Flett's conclusions.

The early records consistently refer to Higinbotham, not 'Higginbotham', and in December 1868 Registrar Iames W. Osborn (Kilmore Division) refers to 'Higinbotham, Murrindindi Creek', so the settlement could not have been renamed in 1869. In June 1869 Osborne refers to 'Higinbotham, about twelve miles S.E. from Yea', and adds 'The Balaclava, George

Higinbotham, and Galatea, are the principal lines being worked'.

Clem Earp also told me that, 'As to Flett's statements about the size of the settlement, that it had a dance hall, etc., and that it was named after a "reefer" (Blake: "miner") named George Higginbotham, for all of which he cites as source the report of March 1869, there is no mention whatever of any of those things in that report, or in any subsequent one. I think we have to regard Flett's citation as being in error' (letter of 17 May 2004).

By this stage we both suspected that the names Grants Track and Higinbotham with a single G were linked, and why. Then Clem Earp looked through the *Alexandra Times* for 6 November 1868 and spotted an announcement, under the heading HIGINBOTHAM, that:

'About three miles on the Yea side of the

township a new reef was found about two weeks ago; it has been called the "George Higinbotham." . . . The adjoining claim has been christened the "James Macpherson Grant," and No. 3 North is named the "Constitutionalist," to represent the opposition party.'

Grant (1822-85) was the radical member of parliament after whom Grant Street, Alexandra, was named, and he had a staunch ally in chief justice and attorney general George Higinbotham (1826-92), champion of land reform, smallholders, working people and votes for women.

Had Flett perhaps made a note about the George Higinbotham Reef and later misread the last word as 'reefer'?

A letter in the *Alexandra Times* of 17 July 1868 published the name for the first time and proudly declared 'You will perceive we are Loyal Liberals'. This was the political party of Higinbotham and Grant. The letter enabled Clem Earp to track down a petition in the Public Records Office (PROV VPRS 242/P0, Unit 1, 1868/R8844) that clarifies the naming of the settlement:

Murrindindi Creek, Yea. To the Honorable The Commissioner of Lands

Sir,

At a meeting held by the residents of this place here this 9th day of July 1868, the following resolution was passed viz. 'Resolved that the Chairman of this meeting be requested to forward to the proper Department of the Government this our petition praying, that the name of the Township forming here, be called Higinbotham'. Requesting an early answer on behalf of the meeting I beg to remain

Your Humble & obedient Servant Eli Taylor Cockburn Chairman of the Meeting

It is now fairly clear that the settlement was never called New Chum, but what and where was New Chum (Creek), as distinct from a locality and watercourse with the same name (flourished 1864) about thirty kilometres south (as the crow flies) at Healesville West? References such as 'the junction on Newchum and Muddy Creeks' (Mining Surveyors' Reports, Jan. 1860), 'Murrendendie

[sic] or New Chum Creek, near Yea' (Mining Registrars' Reports, 31 March 1866) and 'at New-chum Creek and Murrindindi Creek' (M.R.R., March 1870) make it very uncertain whether New Chum Creek was the watercourse or gully flowing past the Higinbotham Mine into the Murrindindi River (formerly Creek) or simply an alternative name for the Murrindindi River itself, a tributary of the Yea River (formerly Muddy Creek).

Clem Earp has commented: 'Looking over the various references to New Chum, it appears to me that few actually refer to New Chum Creek, most just say New Chum, leading me to suspect that the Murrindindi River has been carelessly attributed with the name of the prospecting claim' (letter, 20 Dec. 2005).

Old references to the distance of Higinbotham settlement from the town of Yea give 9, 10 and 12 miles, so in today's measurements we have a range of about 14.5 to 19.5 kilometres. So where was the village?

The most likely site, given what is known so far, is where the creek or gully from the Higinbotham Mine joins the Murrindindi River. This is about 14 kilometres by today's roads from Yea.

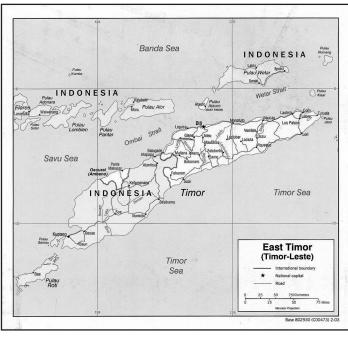
Another possibility would be a little further up the Murrindindi River, at either the original or new site of the old Murrindindi Hall, roughly 17.5 kilometres by road from Yea.

Least likely, because of the distance from Yea (23.5 km), but no less intriguing, is an area marked on a map of 9 May 1868 for the proposed Alexandra-Whittlesea road (Department of Land Information Historical Maps, New Roads 431, microfiche) as a township reserve in the parish of Woodbourne at the confluence of Murrindindi Creek (River) and Ault Beag Creek. (The second name is Gaelic, but has been corrupted on recent maps to Ault Beeac Creek.). The location is known today as Myles Bridge, about a kilometre east of the straggling settlement of Woodbourne.

Searches kindly undertaken by Judith Scurfield (Map Room, State Library of Victoria) and Clem Earp have revealed no map of the short-lived settlement of Higinbotham. It may never have been surveyed. We can, however, be reasonably certain that the place was not named after a miner called George 'Higginbotham'.

☐ Nigel Sinnott (with Clem Earp)
Sunshine, Victoria

The placenames of East Timor



Map of East Timor (from en.wikipedia.org/ wiki/ Image:CIA-TimorLeste.jpg)

ast Timor, Australia's closest north-western neighbour, finally achieved independence in 2002, ■ after four centuries of Portuguese rule, a troubled period of Indonesian occupation (1975-1999), followed by two and a half years of United Nations administration. The República Democrática de Timor-Leste occupies the eastern half of the island of Timor, including two smaller islands (Ataúro and Jaco, the latter uninhabited) and the Oecussi enclave on the north-west coast, surrounded by Indonesian territory. The modern boundaries correspond exactly to those agreed upon by the two colonial powers, Portugal and the Netherlands, in 1914, the enclave being retained by East Timor because it had been the first centre of Portuguese influence on the island and remained firmly attached to Portuguese cultural and religious traditions after the Dutch had annexed the rest of western Timor by the mid 18th century.

While the strong Portuguese imprint has made East Timor a distinct nation, psychologically different from the adjacent and surrounding territories administered by Indonesia, on the basic ethnolinguistic level the country hardly differs from its hinterland. As a Pacific-fringe country, it represents the meeting of the Asian and Oceanic worlds, with a population of mixed Proto-Malay and Melanesian descent, and sixteen indigenous languages, four of which are of Papuan (Trans-New Guinea) origin, the remaining twelve being Austronesian. The Papuan languages (Fataluku,

Makalero, Makasai and Bunak) descend from a language introduced from the Bomberai Peninsula of West Papua possibly as early as four millennia ago (they have cogeners on the nearby Indonesian islands of Alor and Pantar). The Austronesian 'Timoric' vernaculars are, from east to west: Makuva, Kawaimina, Tetum, Habun, Idalaka, Galoli, Atauran, Mambai, Tokodede, Kemak, Bekais and Baikenu). These latter are offshoots of the speech of immigrants from the tip and islands of south-eastern Celebes who arrived in Timor apparently not long after 1000 AD. Tetum is the national lingua franca, and today has co-official status with Portuguese.

The overwhelming majority of East Timorese town and village names are indigenous, and describe some local natural feature, including flora and fauna. Most are topographical and a few are habitative. Appellations of these kinds (with the language of origin noted) are: 'five hamlets' (Leolima - Tetum), 'dark place' (Kounu - Fataluku), 'valley' (Fohoreen - Tetum), 'crevice, crack' (Hera - Mambai), 'new village' (Iliheu - Galoli), 'bird mountain' (Ilimanu - Dadu'a), 'wagtail rock' (Fatubereli'u - Tetum), 'estuary' (Motain - Tetum, Motaél - Mambai), 'long reef', (Metinaru - Nana'ek), 'red water' (Ermera - Mambai), 'eroding water' (Wekeke - Tetum), 'salt water' (Wemasi - Galoli), 'coral reef' (Metiaut - Mambai), 'bitter water' (Waigae - Waima'a), 'tall tree' (Ainaru - Mambai), 'bent tree' (Aileu - Mambai), 'tall eucalypt' (Buburnaru - Tetum), 'land mangrove' (Bidau - Tetum), 'brackwater mangrove' (Kamanasa - Tetum), 'banyan tree' (Nunura - Kemak, Samalari - Makasai), 'corkwood/agati trunk' (Turiskai - Mambai), 'dita bark tree' (Dotik - Tetum), 'lemon tree' (Dare - Mambai), 'starfruit tree' (Balidi -Mambai), 'thornless bamboo' (Audi'an - Tetum), 'cassava' (Luka - Tetum), 'banana grove' (Hudilaran - Tetum), 'herons' (Baliboo - Tetum), 'pecking birds' (Manatutu - Galoli), 'osprey' (Mape - Bunak), 'five crows' (Kaualima - Tetum), 'green snake' (Samoro - Tetum), 'ants' (Mehara - Fataluku), 'civet cat' (Zulo - Bunak), 'pig's teeth' (Fahinehan - Lakalei), 'cuscus urine' (Louvaya - Fataluku). Some placenames are cultural references, e.g. the district of Lauteinu (Port. Lautém) 'sacred cloth' (Fataluku), Fatululik 'sacred rock' (Tetum), Oekusi 'water pot' (Baikenu), Xina-Rate 'Chinese cemetery' (Tetum; a suburb of Dili).

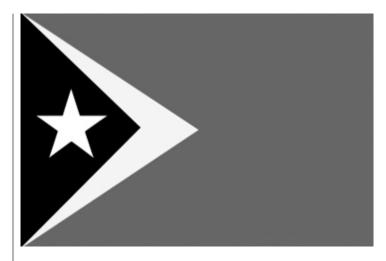
A good many placenames are not transparent, and commonly interpreted by folk etymology. Semantic opacity usually points to a toponym surviving from a linguistic substratum, where the vocabulary of the submerged language is no longer understood by the local inhabitants. The name of the national capital, Dili, is such a case. Many people explain the name as referring to pawpaws (*ai-dila* in Tetum) but this etymology is phonologically and historically implausible (before the Portuguese made it their seat of administration in 1769 the district spoke Mambai, not Tetum). The etymon appears to be cognate with the Bunak word *zili* 'cliff', a reference to

the impressive escarpment that rises behind the city, and a Papuan language had been spoken there before the spread of Austronesian-based Mambai.

Interpreting placenames of substratal origin remains one of the principal challenges of Timorese toponymy. Progress is made as submerged languages and their typical forms are identified. For instance, the prefix *Mau*- occurring in toponyms all over the now Austronesian-speaking western districts (and coinciding unhelpfully with the Tetum term for 'older brother') have been recognized as the metathesis of an earlier *Mua*-, a Papuan term for 'land' (cf. Bunak *mug*, Makasai and Fataluku *mu'a*). *Maumeta* (Ataúro) can thus be plausibly explained as 'black earth' rather than the unlikely 'black brother' in a nation of dark-skinned people. The challenge is to identify correctly the second element in names like *Maubisi*, *Maubesi*, *Maubara*.

East Timor's toponyms commonly occur in dual forms, one representing the indigenous form, the other a Portuguese approximation, often mediated by the Tetum lingua franca, e.g. Wekekel Viqueque, Lauteinul Lautém, Likusaenl Liquiçá, Buburnarul Bobonaro, Kounul I Com, Wemasil Vemasse, Kaualima//Covalima. The lusification of placenames has sometimes led to bizarre distortions, especially outside the Portuguese world. An interesting example is the Fataluku town name Lohoasupala, which means 'the garden with the flea-infested fence'. The Portuguese made this Lospalos, but since East Timor became a frequent news item after 1975, journalists and writers have unanimously corrupted the spelling to Los Palos, in imitation of Spanish placenames like Los Angeles. The pseudo-Hispanic (and putative Portuguese) appellation has logically been interpreted as 'the stakes' by people familiar with Spanish, but the distortion is doubly absurd because not only was there never any Spanish colonization of Timor, but the Portuguese for 'the stakes' would be Os Paus! Native placenames have similarly been falsely ascribed to a Malay or even Javanese origin, for example Batugadé which looks like 'big rock' in Javanese (batu gede) but is actually Kemak for 'flat rock'.

As powerful as has been the impact of Portuguese on all the vernaculars of East Timor, the number of placenames of Portuguese origin is very small, and largely limited to the Dili district. Such lusoid typonyms are obviously relatively recent creations. They include the Dili suburb or subdistrict names Santa Cruz, Santa Ana ('holy cross' and 'St Anne', both named after local cemeteries), Cristo Rei 'Christ the King', Dom Aleixo (name of the hero-king of Suro-Ainaro killed by the Japanese in World War II), Vila Verde 'green villa', Farol 'lighthouse', Bairro dos Coqueiros 'coconut palm quarter', Bairro Pité 'Pité's quarter'. Even rarer are Indonesian appellations that have survived the recent occupation (e.g. Delta for a Indonesian-built western suburb of Dili), and even so usually as synonyms, e.g. Pantai Kelapa for Bairro dos Coqueiros.



By contrast, toponyms of Malay origin retain a significant presence in East Timor because of their genuinely traditional nature, Malay having been the main second language of the country between the 15th and 19th centuries. The traditional name of the island itself, Timur, is from Malay timor 'eastern' (island in relation to Malacca or Java); the Indonesian term for East Timor, Timur Timor, is thus tautological, as is the Tetum name Timór Lorosa'e and its Portuguese translation Timor-Leste. Also of Malay origin are Bariki (from perigi 'spring'), Alas 'jungle', Padiae (in Oecussi, from padi air 'ricefield' in regional Malay), Taibesi (from tahi besi 'iron rust'). Tasi Tolu, the name of the three lagoons situated west of Dili curiously meaning 'three seas', makes better sense when one recalls that tasik in Malay means not 'sea' (like its Tetum cognate tasi) but 'lake', this hydronym thus being an adaptation of an earlier Malay Tiga Tasik.

Although the general policy of the Portuguese was to accept indigenous placenames, an attempt was made during the 1930s to rechristen the names of regional centres with entirely new imperial-sounding Portuguese names. Some of the products of this reform were *Vila Salazar* (replacing *Baucau*), *Vila Nova de Malaca* (for *Lautém*), *Vila General Carmona* (for *Aileu*), *Nova Sagres* (for *Tutuala*), *Vila Filomeno da Câmara* (honouring a former governor – for *Same*). None of these artificial innovations won popular acceptance and they were quietly dropped when the Portuguese administration returned after the war.

The long-term aims of the Projecto Toponímico Nacional are to produce orthographical normative bilingual lists of all East Timorese placenames for practical use by government departments and municipal councils, especially for cartographical and signage works, and a comprehensive toponymical dictionary offering reliable historical, cultural and etymological information about each name.

☐ Geoffrey Hull Instituto Nacional de Linguística, Dili



arch 2006 saw the 400th anniversary of Willem Janszoon's charting of 300kms of the northwest coast of Cape York Peninsula. Janszoon's chart is the first recorded European charting of any part of Australia. To commemorate this event, the State Library of NSW hosted an exhibition *First Sight: the Dutch mapping of Australia, 1606-1697* (6 March-June 4, 2006; curator Paul Brunton). Among the very rare items on display were: Dirk Hartog's pewter plate left behind on Dirk Hartog Island in 1616, Jan Carstenszoon's 1623 journal of the voyage of the *Pera*, Tasman's journal of his 1642-43 voyage to Tasmania and New Zealand, and the Bonaparte Tasman map (1640's). The latter is one of the rare sources of details of Tasman's 1644 voyage during which he charted the Australian coast from Cape York to North West Cape.

The Bonaparte map was acquired by the State Library of NSW in 1933. The map was reproduced in marble on the floor of the vestibule of the new Library building when it was built in 1942.

The following text is that of a typescript compiled by Phyllis Mander Jones in 1942. It outlines the differences in nomenclature between the original Bonaparte map and the marble reproduction. The typescript underscores the problems toponymists often encounter and have to deal with when researching placenames through old maps.

"The following notes and extracts deal with the accuracy of the marble reproduction of the Bonaparte map in the Vestibule of the Public Library of New South Wales, and with the reliability of Swart's lithographic copy of the original appended to his edition of Tasman's 1642-3 journal.

The original map, which is in the possession of the Mitchell Library, was difficult to photograph satisfactorily, and enlarged sectional photographs of Swart's lithographic copy were made for the purpose of taking accurate measurements, and for the checking of details and lettering.

The objective in view was the creation, as a fine central feature for the floor of the vestibule, of a clear representation in marble mosaic of the famous Bonaparte map. Swart's copy has the virtue of providing a clear model from which to work.

The question arises as to the reliability of Swart's copy. Both Heeres and Meyjes describe it as inaccurate and careless, but neither of these writers had an opportunity of examining the original. The truth is that the original is itself inaccurate in the spelling of Dutch words and in the copying of some transcriptions from previous charts. (cf. [sic] Wieder, F.C. – Monumenta Cartog. IV, p.139).

Swart has been further criticised because he made a few alterations in spelling, but left many other inaccuracies unemended. (cf. [sic] Leupe, P.A. – De Handschriften der Ontdekkingsreis van Abel Jansz. Tasman ... 1642. p. 15–) It will be seen from a list of differences between the original and Swart's copy appended to these notes, that these alterations are few in number. Swart himself says that he has purposely made only a few alterations in spelling.

It is notable that the word written as a title above the inscription in the upper eastern corner, rendered by Swart as "Carten", is clearly "Carten" on the original. It is difficult to understand why this has been quoted as being rather to be read as "Alle". (cf. Heeres, J.E. – Abel Janszoon Tasman's Journal, p. 72, note 2; Meyjes, R.P. – De Reizen van Abel Janszoon Tasman, p.Lxxvii;

Wieder, F.C. – Monumenta Cartographica IV, p.139).

Unfortunately the original map is at present stored away for safety, and cannot be examined. The Mitchell Library has, however, a good photograph in four sections. Comparison of this with Swart's lithograph shows that the latter is on the whole very like the original. This statement must be qualified to some extent as indicated here and below in more detail.

There is one difference between Swart's copy and the original which at once leaps to the eye. This is the use of a nineteenth century script instead of a seventeenth century one. However, much as this may be deplored from the point of view of obtaining a facsimile of the original, it must be admitted that the nineteenth century hand is the easier to modern eyes.

An exact hand facsimile of the map could not have been made for reproduction in the marble. This would, of course, have reproduced the old 17th century script and all the curious incorrect spelling.

General Colouring and Outlines

As the original was not stored when the marble map was under construction, it may be taken that the colouring of the marble map is like the original. The colouring is constructed in the most durable way possible, going the full depth of the marble mosaic slabs. It certainly resembles the colouring of Swart's copy, but is brighter and there are differences, notably the blue water under the ships and whales.

A comparison of Swart's lithograph of the original and the

marble map with regard to coastlines, compass lines and decorative features, etc. shows accurate agreement between the three.

Lettering

Mention has been made above of the change to nineteenth century script on Swart's copy. In addition capitals are often substituted for small letters as the initials of proper names. For example, the small 't' used on the original in several places as the initial of Tasman is changed to a capital letter. Unfortunately the capital 'T' used looks more like an 'F' to our eyes.

One of the few changes in spelling adopted by Swart

is the use of "lant" and "eylant" instead of the "lam" and "eylam" of the original. It has been remarked by several observers (cf. Leupe, P.A. – De Reizen der Nederlanders naar Nieuw-Guinea, p.189; and typescript letter from Professor Henderson to Mr. Ifould in Mitchell Library) that the copyist of the original seems to have been unacquainted with the Dutch language. No Dutchman would have written "lam" and "eylam", or for that matter "opgedean" instead of "opgedaen". Swart however retains the latter while altering the former. Perhaps he felt that "lam" and "eylam" occurred so frequently and looked so strange that it was essential to alter them. He has retained other practically unintelligible phrases. (cf. Leupe, P.A. – De Handschriften der Ontdekkingsreis van Abel Janszoon Tasman … 1642-43, p.16)

Below will be found a list of variations in lettering between Swart's copy and the original. This is followed [not reproduced here] by a number of extracts from authorities who have discussed the accuracy of Swart's reproduction. Where these are in Dutch they are translated into English. Finally a translation [also omitted] is given of Meyjes' note on the marble map in the Stadthuis at Amsterdam.

<u>List of Differences between Lettering on Swart's Lithograph</u> and Original Map

- 1. The main difference is the use of the nineteenth century script instead of a seventeenth century one.
- 2. Capitals are often substituted for small letters as initials of proper names. (Cf. remarks on spelling of Tasman above.)
- 3. "lam" and "eylam" are changed practically everywhere to "lant" and "eylant".

The Marble map (photo: State Library of NSW)

- 4. Differences in lettering as follows:
 - i) In the last line of the inscription in the upper eastern corner the original spells the word "Diemens" with an "s". This "s" is omitted by Swart.
 - ii) Near the north coast of New Guinea Swart has the words "Groene Eylanden" opposite four small islands called "laegh Eylanden". The words "Groene Eylanden" do not occur on the original.
 - iii) Swart has reversed the lettering on part of the south coast of New Guinea, but has otherwise reproduced the spelling of the original at this point.
- iv) Reading from west to east on the north coast of New Guinea, Swart has the following variations:
 - a) "Laeg Eylandenkens" on the original is rendered by Swart "Laeg Eylandekens".
 - b) "gerrits denis eylam" is rendered by Swart "Garde News Eylant" (Heeres has "Gardeny's Is. The modern name is "Gerrit Denys Is.")
 - c) "Anthony coen Eylant" is rendered by Swart "Anthony caen Eylant".
- v) The original has "timor lanut", Swart "timor lanat".
- vi) In the Gulf of Carpentaria the name "veertonich revier" is given by Swart as "vereengide revier".(The photograph of the original does not show the lettering in the corner of the Gulf.)
- vii) On the west coast of Australia the original has "Houmens Albrogos", Swart "Houtmans Albrogos".
- viii) Near Mauritius the island "Diogue rodrigue" of the original is called "Drogorodriqus".
- ix) On the south coast of Tasmania the original has
 - a) "borel eylam" and Swart "Boreel Eylant".
 - b) "Suwers eylam" on the original is rendered by Swart "Sweers Eylant".
 - c) "Witte eylam" on the original is rendered by Swart "Witsen Eylant".
- x) On the coast of New Zealand the original has "cabo piter borels" which is rendered by Swart as "cabo pieter Boreel".
- xi) In the Friendly Is. the original has a) "princt Willems Eylanden", b) "Rotterdam", which are rendered by Swart as "Prins Willems Eylanden" and "Rotterdam" respectively.*
- * Note: Mander Jones identifies the Prins Willems Eylanden as being part of the Friendly Islands (i.e. Tonga, originally named the Friendly Islands by Cook). This is incorrect. The Prins Willems Eylanden was the name conferred by Tasman on the Fiji Islands. Rotterdam was the name bestowed by Tasman for one of the islands in the Tonga group.

☐ Introduction and commentary by **Jan Tent**,

Macquarie University

With thanks to Paul Brunton, Senior Curator, Mitchell Library, for making available the unpublished typescript and the photographs accompanying the article

Montebello Islands



he Montebello Islands (WA) were named by the French expedition, under Baudin, in March 1803, in commemoration of the French victory at the battle of Montebello, where General Jean Lannes defeated the Austrians on 9 June 1800. Montebello is a village near Pavia in North Italy, approximately 50 km south of Milan. It was subsequently made a duchy, and the victorious French general, later a marshal, was created the Duke of Montebello in 1808. The name "Montebello Islands" first appears on an 1803 map draft of the Baudin expedition.

Until 1973 these islands were shown on various maps spelled either *Montebello* or *Monte Bello*. Investigation in that year, using original sources and with reference to the name of the village in Italy, established the name should be one word.

This island group, consisting of over 150 low, barren islands, is situated about 130 km west of the port of Dampier. They were the scene of a historic landing by English sailors in 1622 when the survivors of the wreck of the *Tryal* (on the nearby formation now known as "Tryal Rocks") rested there prior to sailing to Java. Pearl diving in the waters surrounding the islands commenced in 1884 and Campbell Island later became the site of one of the first Australian attempts at pearl culture by Thomas H. Haynes, who leased the area from 1902 to 1914 for that purpose.

The group became known throughout the world as the site for the British atom bomb tests of 1952 and 1956, and prior to the tests the Royal Navy surveyed the islands in 1951 and 1955.

An unusual naming convention was used. Most islands were named after flowers: Aster, Bluebell, Buttercup, Carnation, Crocus, Dahlia, Daisy, Dandelion, Foxglove, Pansy, Primrose, etc. Bays were named after alcoholic drinks: Moselle, Chianti, Burgundy, Champagne, Stout, Whiskey, Claret, etc. Hills on the islands have animal names: Bear, Leopard, Giraffe, Lion, Beaver, Panther, Elephant, Boar, Tiger, Goat, etc. Points are named after British prime ministers: Baldwin, Balfour, Churchill, Pitt, Lloyd George.

☐ Brian Goodchild

Department of Land Information WA Secretary, Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia

Research Friend: Tony Dawson



West Yorkshire village of Skelmanthorpe, a name possibly of Icelandic origin and recorded in the Domesday Book as *Scelmertorp*. However, locals knew it as 'Shat', not for any vulgar reason but, according to some historians, in memory of the 'Shatters', the tough men of the village who, between the 11th and 14th centuries, could be called upon by the landowners to ward off aggressors.

When I lived there, the people of Skelmanthorpe mostly worked in the coal mines and woollen mills or on farms, but on finishing school I went to Sheffield to study biological science. After completing my studies in 1966 the world was wide open and for reasons that now seem obscure, but certainly not regretted, I chose Melbourne University for my post-doctoral research. Four years later, after a brief period back in England during which I met and married my wife Andrea, I came out again to work at the University of Sydney, then in 1980 moved to the University of Technology, Sydney.

On retiring from the position of Associate Dean of Science in 1998, I looked forward to new pursuits but, apart from a long-held interest in topography and mapping, was uncertain what they might be. Chance came to the rescue. We had recently moved to the Northern Beaches and while browsing through a book of historic photographs of the area I noticed in one of them the house in which we live standing almost alone on

the hill behind Newport Beach. So began my interest in local history, initially that of the house itself and then more generally into the early surveys and original landowners in the district. As I dug deeper, one name kept cropping up—the surveyor James Meehan. It was in September 1815, while at Freshwater surveying a portion of land for Thomas Bruin, that Meehan first recorded the name 'Dy'. In doing so he created a mystery which no amount of toponymic research has yet been able to solve satisfactorily.

Although Meehan may be better known for this single act than for anything else he did, the more I looked into his life from his arrival in the colony in 1800, transported for his involvement in the 1798 Irish rebellion, to his death in 1826, the more enthralled I became. The sheer number of surveys he performed during his twenty-two years in the Survey Department, measuring farms, tracing rivers, drawing up town plans, and exploring unknown country was amazing. And throughout his field books are scattered the names of places he surveyed or passed through – Aboriginal names such as 'Boombuong' (Bong Bong) and 'Mooroo-auling' (Marulan) or European names such as 'Kings Grove'.

What I uncovered about Meehan's life and work convinced me that he was someone who merited far more attention than had previously been accorded, so I wrote a book about him. The title of the book—'James Meehan – a most excellent surveyor' – was based on words of praise from Governor Macquarie.

Since the book was published in 2004 I have continued to delve into the history of surveying, a naturally rich environment for toponymy. To be associated with ANPS is, therefore, both pleasing and rewarding.

Placenames in the news

The departure of the *Duyfken* replica from Fremantle on 6 April, attended by both Prime Minister John Howard and visiting Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, was widely reported.

The onward itinerary of the voyage, staged to commemorate the quatercentenary of the first definite European sighting of Australia by Willem Janszoon in 1606, is as follows:

Bunbury, WA	8-14/4
Albany, WA	18-24/4
Esperance, WA	27/4-1/5
Port Lincoln, SA	10-16/5
Adelaide, SA	18-29/5
Victor Harbor, SA	30/5-5/6
Port Fairy, Vic	9-13/6
Geelong, Vic	16-20/6
Melbourne, Vic	21/6-6/7
Brisbane/Redcliffe, Qld	21/7-2/8
Bundaberg, Qld	4-10/8
Gladstone, Qld	11-15/8

Mackay, Qld	18-23/8
Townsville, Qld	25-30/8
Cairns, Qld	1-8/9
Coffs Harbour, NSW	6-12/10
Port Macquarie, NSW	13-18/10
Newcastle, NSW	20-25/10
Wollongong, NSW	27/10-2/11
Ulladulla, NSW	3-9/11
Eden, NSW	11-20/11
Dunalley, Tas	24-25/11
Hobart, Tas	26/11-3/12
Sydney, NSW	10-26/12

Corrections

In the March 2006 issue of Placenames Australia the caption on page 4 should read 'Nattai' instead of 'Tonalli'.

In relation to Jan Tent's article on the importance of bygone placenames, Stuart Duncan of the Northern Territory Place Names Committee points out that the two prominent Central Australian features are currently officially dual named as Uluru/Ayers Rock and Kata Tjuta/Mount Olga.

Placenames Puzzle no. 18

International locations

All the clues reveal placenames connected with well-known international locations (disregard spelling), e.g. (SA) Eros stands in the middle of this Circus ... PICCADILLY

- 1. (NSW) Californian home of many film stars
- 2. (NSW) Falls on the Great Lakes; place for leaving a car
- 3. (NSW) Home of London's zoo
- 4. (NSW/WA) Its capital is Tallahassee
- 5. (NSW/Qld/Vic) Shakespeare's birthplace, but not the river
- 6. (Vic) Location of Nelson's mortal wound
- 7. (Vic) Most southerly point of the American continent
- 8. (Vic) A UK huge street carnival
- 9. (Qld) The one at Gizeh is the largest in the world
- 10. (Qld) Forced to live here after, so to speak, 'meeting his Waterloo'
- 11. (SA) Romantic city with a Left Bank; small stream
- 12. (SA) A statue of Barrie's perennial child is a tourist attraction here
- 13. (Tas) Seat of learning from the 13th century, favours light blue, renowned for The Backs
- 14. (Tas) The extensive plains of Eurasia (mainly Russia) rather than a small ladder
- 15. (Tas) Famed for Land's End, clotted cream and pastries
- 16. (Tas) One of the world's longest, with Blue and White tributaries
- 17. (Tas) Bluebirds were promised over its white steep rock-faces
- (Tas) One-time Scottish border for runaway marriages, without the colour
- 19 (Tas/Vic) This Cinque Port's fame probably dates from 1066
- 20. (Tas/WA) The Irish Republic's longest river and international airport

Contributions

Flavia Hodges

Contributions for *Placenames Australia* are welcome. Closing dates for submissions are:

31 January for the March issue 31 Jul	ly for the September issue
30 April for the June issue 31 O	ctober for the December issue.

Please send all contributions to the Editor, Flavia Hodges, at the address below. Electronic submissions are preferred, and photographic or other illustrations are greatly appreciated.

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Answers: 1. Beverly Hills 2. Miagara Park 3. Regents Park 4. Florida 5. Stratford 6. Trafalgar 7. Cape Horn 8. Morting Hill 9. Pyramid 10. St Helena Island 11. Paris Creek 12. Kensington Gardens 13. Cambridge 14. Steppes 15. Cornwall 16. Mile 17. Dover 18. Gretna 19. Hastings 20. Shannon

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